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WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

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Mortality from Certain Diseases Among Children Under 15 Years of Age, California, 1906-1934

(Continued from last issue)

During school age deaths from whooping cough are not common, and when they do occur are usually in the lower brackets of 5–14 age group. They are somewhat constant in numbers during the entire period studied, but because of the increase in population of this group, we find the rates decreasing from 2.7 per 100,000 in 1906–1909 to 0.6 per 100,000 group population in 1930–1934.

Mortality from Whooping Cough, 1906–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1906–1909	380	258.1	234	41.4	36	2.7
1910–1914	618	284.6	435	51.5	49	2.5
1915–1919	519	205.9	346	33.9	31	1.3
1920–1924	814	274.2	478	38.6	58	1.9
1925–1929	876	249.2	510	34.0	44	1.1
1930–1934	545	136.3	305	17.7	27	0.6

DIPHTHERIA

During the 29 years under study, deaths from diphtheria have decreased markedly in children under fifteen years of age. Death rates from this cause among this group have fallen from 55.9 to 10.1 or 82.0 per cent between the first and the last period studied, the largest reduction being among children 5-14 years of age. As in scarlet fever and whooping cough this reduction has been gradual and continuous with the exception of the years 1920–1924 when there was a rise above the previous years.

During 1906–1909, there are 63 children under 1 year of age who died, with a rate of 42.8 per 100,000 children in this class. This fluctuates with a rise in 1920–1924 to 32.0 per 100,000 group population with ninety-five deaths and then falls to a low point during 1930–1934 of 48 deaths or a rate of 12.0 per 100,000 group population.

The age group 1–4 contributes a large number of deaths to this disease. There are 558 deaths with a corresponding group rate of 98.8 per 100,000 population in 1906–1909. The number falls and then rises to a high point of 1107 deaths, although the rate does not rise above that of 1906–1909, but reaches 89.3 per 100,000 group population. Both numbers and rates then fall to 346 and 20.1 respectively in 1930–1934. The percentage drop in rate from 1906–1909, when it is 42.8, to 12.0 per 100,000 population in 1930–1934 is the smallest of the three groups, being 72.0 per cent decrease.

The age group 5–14 exhibits the greatest percentage drop in rate of the three groups under study. In 1906–1909 there are 515 deaths with a corresponding rate of 39.1. This rises in 1920–1924 to 1569 deaths with a rate of 50.2 and then falls ten years later to 289 deaths with a rate of 6.3. This rate is 83.9 per cent lower than that of 1906–1909, and 87.4 per cent lower than the rate for the years 1920–1924. The decrease in rate in this age group is 79.7 per cent, falling from 98.8 per 100,000 population in 1906–1909 to 20.1 in 1930–1934.

Mortality from Diphtheria, 1906–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1906–1909	63	42.8	558	98.8	516	39.1
1910–1914	47	21.6	463	54.8	406	20.6
1915–1919	63	25.0	564	55.2	537	21.9
1920–1924	95	32.0	1107	89.3	1569	50.2
1925–1929	57	16.2	567	37.8	545	13.7
1930–1934	48	12.0	346	20.1	289	6.3

DYSENTERY

Deaths from dysentery include all forms of dysentery, bacillary, amoebic and unspecified. These have not been segregated until recent years, although the group as a whole has been recognized.

Children under 1 year of age are the most susceptible to this disease when mortality rates are considered. In 1906–1909 there are 11 deaths attributed to this disease with a rate of 7.5. This rises to a peak of 114 deaths during 1920–1924, with a corresponding rate of 47.5 and then drops to 104 deaths and a rate of 26.0 per 100,000 group population during 1930–1934.

The trend of deaths in children from 1–4 years of age follows that of age group under one year, although the rates are lower all the way through. The lowest number of deaths is recorded during 1906–1909, with 14 and a rate of 2.5 per 100,000 population. This rises to a high point of 99 deaths and a rate of 8.0 per 100,000 population in 1920–1924, then falls to 87 deaths and a mortality rate of 5.0 per 100,000 group population during 1930–1934.

Ages 5–14 presents a somewhat different picture, although the number of deaths involved is small. During the 4 years of 1906–1909, there are four deaths from dysentery with a rate of 0.3 per 100,000 group population. This rate remains stationary until 1920–1924 when it rises to a rate of 0.5 per 100,000 group population and 16 deaths. After a drop during the next quinquennium, there is a further rise to a high of 27 deaths and a mortality rate of 0.6 per 100,000 group population. The differences in rate throughout this age group during the period under observation are so small that they are probably not significant.

Mortality from Dysentery, 1906–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1906–1909	11	7.5	14	2.5	4	0.3
1910–1914	44	20.3	47	5.6	6	0.3
1915–1919	76	30.1	66	6.5	8	0.3
1920–1924	141	47.5	99	8.0	16	0.5
1925–1929	115	32.7	97	6.5	14	0.4
1930–1934	104	26.0	87	5.0	27	0.6

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

Statistics on this disease are available only since 1921 so the study is limited to a period of fourteen years. For uniformity with other diseases studied, the four-year period comes first, followed by two five-year periods. All three age groups under 15 years present the same picture, that of low number of deaths and rate, followed by a fairly large number of deaths and then receding almost to the same rate as in the initial period. Rates are about the same for infants under 1 year and children under four years, but are lower for those 5–14 years although the number of deaths is greater.

In 1921–1924 there are 8 deaths in infants under 1 year, with a rate of 3.3 per 100,000 group population. This rises during 1925–1929 to 34 deaths, rate 9.7 per 100,000 group population, and then recedes to 19 deaths with a corresponding rate of 4.8 poliomyelitis deaths per 100,000 group population in 1930–34.

Groups 1–4 present a similar picture with 46, 143 and 76 deaths, and corresponding rates of 4.5, 9.5, and 4.4 deaths per 100,000 group population during the period 1921–1924, 1925–1929, and 1930–1934, respectively.

Mortality from Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) 1921–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1921–1924	8	3.3	46	4.5	57	2.2
1925–1929	34	9.7	143	9.5	215	5.4
1930–1934	19	4.8	176	4.4	120	2.6

Death rates from poliomyelitis are lower in the group 5–14 years than they are in the two younger groups, although the actual numbers of deaths exceed the sum of the deaths in these two groups. There are 57 deaths, rate 2.2 per 100,000 group population in 1921–1925 followed by 215 deaths with a rate of 5.4 per 100,000 group population in 1925–1929 and a drop in 1930–1934 to 120 deaths with a corresponding rate of 2.6 per 100,000 group population.

EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS

(Encephalitis Lethargica) Sleeping Sickness

Statistics for this disease are available over a period of 14 years only, as are those for acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) and meningococcic meningitis (epidemic or cerebro-spinal miningitis). Differing from poliomyelitis there is a higher death rate among those children under 1 than there is in those from 1 to 4 years of age, while the rate distribution among the age groups is similar to that of epidemic poliomyelitis.

Beginning with 17 deaths of infants under one year of age, we find a rate of 7.0 per 100,000 group population in 1921–1924. This recedes through 16 deaths, rate 4.6 to 1 death and a rate of 0.2 per 100,000 group population 1930–1934.

Age group 1–14 exhibits a similar trend. There are 37 deaths with a rate of 3.6 per 100,000 group population, 1921–1924. This drops to 33 deaths, rate 2.2 and then goes to 24 deaths, rate 1.4 per 100,000 group population.

The story is repeated in age group 5–14 with similar numbers, but lower rates.

Mortality from Epidemic Encephalitis (Encepalitis Lethargica, Sleeping Sickness), 1921–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1921–1924	17	7.0	37	3.6	41	1.6
1925–1929	16	4.6	33	2.2	31	0.8
1930–1934	1	0.2	24	1.4	11	0.2

EPIDEMIC MENINGITIS

Death rates from this cause run higher in infants under 1 year of age than they do in either acute anterior poliomyelitis or lethargic encephalitis. The years 1921–1924 show 34 deaths with a rate of 14.1. This rises to 68 deaths with 19.3 deaths per 100,000 group population in 1925–1929 and then falls slightly to 67 deaths with corresponding rates of 16.8 deaths per 100,000 group population. Such a sustained death rate is somewhat surprising in this age group.

In the age group 1–4 years the death rate is much lower, although it follows the same trend. In 1921–1924 there are 35 deaths, giving a death rate of 3.5 per 100,000 group population. This rises to 118 deaths and 7.9 deaths per 100,000 group population during 1925–1929, and then falls to 80 deaths with a rate of 4.6 per 100,000 group population.

Age group 5–14 shows a slightly higher number of deaths in each period but the rates are very low. In 1921–1924 there are 46 deaths and a death rate of 1.8 per 100,000 group population. This rises to 151 deaths and a rate of 3.8 per 100,000 group population and then recedes to 97 deaths with a corresponding rate of 2.1 per 100,000 group population.

Mortality from Meningococcic Meningitis, 1921–1934

Years	Under 1 year		1–4 years		5–14 years	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1921–1924	34	14.1	35	3.5	46	1.8
1925–1929	68	19.3	118	7.9	151	3.8
1930–1934	67	16.8	80	4.6	97	2.1

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is the greatest cause of deaths among the communicable diseases in children under 15 years of age. During the period 1930–1934, acute poliomyelitis, lethargic encephalitis and epidemic meningitis account for 495 deaths, while tuberculosis, with effects as appalling as those of these three diseases, causes 2233 deaths in the same age group. It would seem that the reduction which has been accomplished has nearly wiped out this as a cause of death among children, but it is apparent that there are still more deaths from tuberculosis than there are from measles, whooping cough and diphtheria combined during the same period, 1930–1934. To be sure, we have reduced the death rate from this disease in the age groups under 15 but it still stands as the most prolific cause of death among the communicable diseases. In 1906–1909 there are 1676 deaths of children under 15 years of age with a mortality rate of 82.5 per 100,000 group population, and this is changed to 2233 deaths with a rate of 32.9 per 100,000 group population, or a reduction in the mortality rate of 60.1 per cent.

(Continued in next issue)

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending February 15, 1936

Chickenpox

595 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 17, Berkeley 7, Oakland 28, Piedmont 1, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 2, Martinez 1, Fresno County 13, Fresno 15, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 15, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 39, Alhambra

1, Azusa 1, Beverly Hills 1, Compton 1, Glendale 2, Glendora 1, Huntington Park 5, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 68, Pasadena 8, Pomona 2, San Gabriel 9, Santa Monica 9, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 9, South Gate 2, Maywood 1, Madera County 1, Mendocino County 2, Merced County 2, Merced 13, Alturas 1, Napa 1, Orange County 27, Anaheim 5, Fullerton 6, Orange 2, Santa Ana 4, La Habra 4, Placentia 4, Riverside County 4, Beaumont 1, Riverside 11, Sacramento County 9, Sacramento 16, Ontario 8, San Bernardino 4, San Diego County 6, San Diego 29, San Francisco 66, San Joaquin County 15, Lodi 4, Stockton 5, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo County 4, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 12, Palo Alto 11, San Jose 8, Santa Clara 1, Willow Glen 1, Shasta County 2, Tulare County 1, Dinuba 4, Lindsay 1, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 7, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 1, Woodland 4.

Diphtheria

33 cases: Oakland 3, San Leandro 1, Imperial County 1, El Centro, 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles 8, Mariposa County 1, Placer County 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Petaluma 1, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 1.

German Measles

222 cases: Alameda County 17, Alameda 7, Albany 3, Berkeley 7, Hayward 7, Oakland 18, Piedmont 1, Contra Costa County 7, Richmond 4, Fresno County 10, Fresno 1, Bishop 14, Lake County 1, Lassen County 2, Los Angeles County 4, Culver City 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Glendora 1, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 12, San Fernando 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Monterey County 3, King City 1, Orange County 7, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 31, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 4, San Diego 1, San Francisco 20, San Mateo County 2, Santa Clara County 4, Gilroy 1, San Jose 2, Sierra County 1, Yolo County 2.

Influenza

4276 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 3, Albany 2, Berkeley 48, Hayward 2, Oakland 24, Jackson 1, Sutter Creek 7, Chico 6, Placerville 1, Kern County 2833, Taft 5, Kings County 11, Hanford 10, Lake County 38, Lakeport 25, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 9, Beverly Hills 1, Claremont 1, Huntington Park 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 14, Los Angeles 311, Pomona 4, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 1, Torrance 1, Merced County 2, Alturas 6, Napa County 3, Napa 1, Nevada County 3, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 17, Fullerton 10, Santa Ana 10, Tustin 2, Riverside County 6, Sacramento County 12, Sacramento 88, North Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 35, San Luis Obispo County 16, Arroyo Grande 2, San Luis Obispo 58, Hillsborough 13, Belmont 4, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 253, Gilroy 21, Los Gatos 2, Mountain View 16, San Jose 13, Sunnyvale 28, Willow Glen 151, Santa Cruz County 23, Watsonville 53, Siskiyou County 1, Petaluma 1, Santa Rosa 12, Turlock 16, Woodland 3, Yuba County 1.

Measles

1631 cases: Alameda 4, Albany 20, Berkeley 21, Hayward 1, Oakland 72, Piedmont 4, San Leandro 2, Butte County 10, Chico 4, Gridley 45, Colusa County 27, Richmond 2, Fresno County 43, Fresno 22, Calexico 12, Inyo County 5, Kern County 3, Lassen County 9, Los Angeles County 154, Alhambra 1, Azusa 7, Beverly Hills 2, Covina 2, Culver City 16, El Monte 3, El Segundo 6, Glendora 1, Huntington Park 5, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 255, Montebello 1, Pasadena 16, Pomona 5, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 23, Whittier 1, Lynwood 2, South Gate 25, Monterey Park 4, Maywood 1, Bell 2, Madera County 2, San Rafael 5, Mendocino County 2, Monterey County 6, Monterey 1, Salinas 2, Napa County 4, Napa 24, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 6, Placentia 2, Plumas County 7, Riverside County 4, Corona 1, Riverside 9, Sacramento County 40, Sacramento 13, San Bernardino 24, Escondido 6, San Diego 2, San Francisco 400, San Joaquin County 15, Manteca 2, San Luis Obispo County 3, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 9, Burlingame 5, Daly City 1, San Mateo 3, Atherton 1, Belmont 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 20, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 37, Gilroy 1, Los Gatos 5, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 4, San Jose 30, Sunnyvale 27, Willow Glen 2, Redding 5, Etna 10, Solano County 3, Benicia 6, Vacaville 4, Ventura County 7, Fillmore 10, Ventura 1, Yolo County 4, Woodland 1.

Mumps

378 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 2, Albany 13, Berkeley 2, Oakland 20, Piedmont 1, Chico 5, Colusa County 3, Colusa 6, Hercules 1, Fresno County 5, Fresno 1, Calexico 1, Kern County 1, Taft 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 19, Claremont 1, Covina 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, La Verne 3, Long Beach 47, Los Angeles 40, Pasadena 2, Pomona 11, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 10, Lynwood 1, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Bell 2, Mendocino County 1, Gustine 1, Merced 1, Mono County 1, Nevada County 1, Orange County 3, Fullerton 6, Santa Ana 5, La Habra 2, Riverside County 7, Corona 13, Riverside 13, Sacramento County 16, Sacramento 21, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 10, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 2, Stockton 6, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Clara County 8, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 1, Watsonville 8, Shasta County 4, Sierra County 1, Siskiyou County 1, Tehama County 3, Red Bluff 8, Lindsay 4, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

104 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 4, Oakland 6, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Inyo County 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Compton 1, Glendora 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 33, Pasadena 1, Redondo 1, San Marino 1, Whittier 2, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Mill Valley 2, Monterey County 1, Napa 1, Anaheim 2, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 4, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 1, Shasta County 2, Tulare County 1, Fillmore 1, Ventura 1, Yuba County 3.

Scarlet Fever

406 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 5, Berkeley 6, Oakland 8, Piedmont 1, Butte County 2, Chico 2, Colusa 4, Contra Costa County 1, El Cerrito 3, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 14, Fresno 2, Sanger 3, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 9, Hanford 3, Los Angeles County 22, Burbank 4, Glendale 4, Glendora 2, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 12, Los Angeles 94, Pasadena 1, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 2, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 6, Madera County 1, Mendocino County 2, Merced County 1, Alturas 1, Pacific Grove 1, Nevada County 2, Nevada City 1, Orange County 2, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 2, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 4, Corona 2, Riverside 3, Sacramento County 17, Sacramento 10, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 3, La Mesa 1, San Diego 10, San Francisco 76, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 2, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Daly City 3, Santa Clara County 3, Solano County 2, Sutter County 1, Tehama County 2, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 6, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 2, Yolo County 1, Marysville 1.

Smallpox

One case: Richmond.

Typhoid Fever

3 cases: Alameda County 1, Los Angeles County 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

142 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 6, Albany 2, Berkeley 6, Oakland 7, Piedmont 2, San Leandro 2, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 10, Beverly Hills 3, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 12, Montebello 1, Monterey County 1, Fullerton 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 4, San Diego 24, San Francisco 23, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 6, Tracy 4, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Cruz County 2, Santa Cruz 4, Sutter County 1, Ventura 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

8 cases: Placerville 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles 2, Merced County 1, San Diego 1, Tulare County 1, Tuolumne County 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, California 1.*

Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: Siskiyou County.

Pellagra

2 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 1.

Poliomyelitis

9 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 3, Maywood 1, Merced County 1, Modoc County 1, Placentia 1.

Tetanus

One case: Stockton.

Trachoma

2 cases: Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1.

Food Poisoning

6 cases: Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 1.

Undulant Fever

2 cases: Selma 1, Napa County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

20 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 14, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 1, San Diego 1.

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* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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